

Saint John Berchman's Parish

HOLLAND, MANITOBA
and Cypress River and Glenboro Missions

Combined Funds Canvass

December 1959

Dedication . . .

This booklet is dedicated to the Catholic pioneers and the missionaries who established this parish and bequeathed to us such a fine faith, culture and heritage of which we are all so proud, and to our present parishioners, who by their courage, generosity and zeal will have answered the call of the parish in this time of great need.

Prayer for God's Share

Leader: Let us beg the Lord to help us understand and to give GOD'S SHARE.

All : O God, who art worth infinitely more than all the world, / Thou who givest us life and all that we possess, / Thou who are our only lasting recompense on earth and in heaven, / Give us grace to offer to Thee, with Jesus on the altar, / our own persons and a generous share of our possessions. / Amen.

Leader: Mary, Mother of Good Counsel,

All : Pray for us.

Leader: St. Joseph, Foster Father of the Son of God,

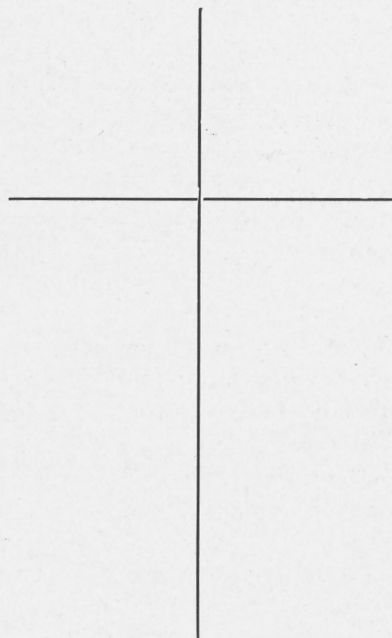
All : Pray for us.

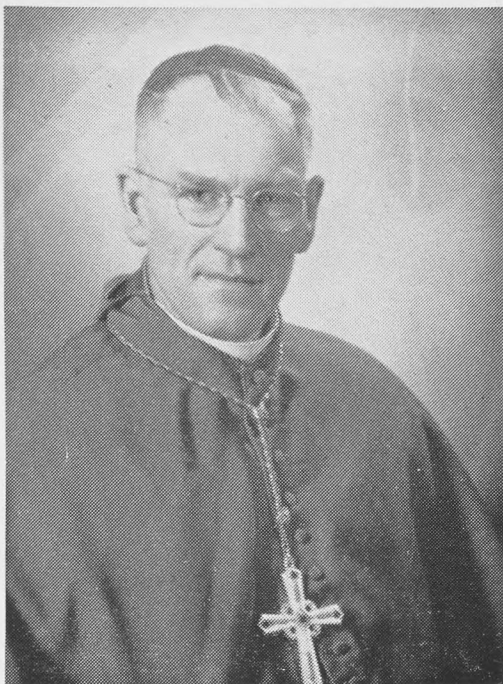
Leader: St. Boniface,

All : Pray for us.

(An Indulgence of 200 days each time. 28-VIII-59)

†MAURICE, Archbishop of Saint Boniface





Archêveché
Archbishop's Residence
Saint-Boniface, Manitoba

My Dear Friend:

This is a personal Message to **you**, written with the purpose of completing my Pastoral Letter, addressed and read in all churches to all the faithful of the Archdiocese as a group, and in which I attempted to set out the aims and the means of our GOD'S SHARE Campaign.

I feel very confident that our common endeavour will reach its two-fold primary goal:
First, to help the 60,000 Catholics of the Latin rite in this Archdiocese to better understand their responsibility in the Christian use of their earthly possessions, by offering a generous share of their earnings to God, together with their own persons at Holy Mass;
Second, to supply the Church with the material means of accomplishing its spiritual mission on its three levels of activity, namely the universal Church, the Diocese and the Parish.

But I wish to take this opportunity, as **you** read this Message yourself, of thanking **you** in anticipation for **your** personal response to the appeal that I sent out to all who are part of this Archdiocese. For I know that this appeal is going to meet with full success because **you** will have fully understood the meaning of GOD'S SHARE, because **you** will have done **your** very best in helping others to understand, and because **you** will have set a pace in sharing which satisfies **your** conscience, and also set an example of sharing of which **you** may be legitimately proud.

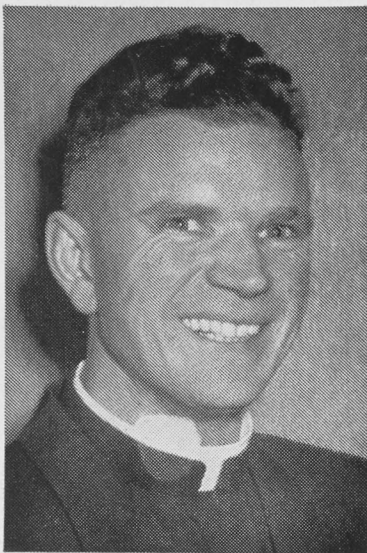
May I now ask you to thank God for the privilege that He bestows upon you, as He gives you life, health and money, by accepting that you return some of all that you have received from Him —by co-operating in making Him better known, loved and served by other men. For that is what is really taking place when **you** make **your** offering at the Holy Mass. Some of it goes for the Missions, Papal Charities, Canadian Church Extension, Christian Doctrine, and the Seminary. Most of **your** regular offerings go to build up and maintain **your** Archdiocese and **your** Parish in all their growing needs.

Finally I beg **you** to pray every day, and at least once each day in **your** home, that God may choose to shower His choicest blessings upon this **your** effort, in such a way that **you** may truly feel that He is **your** lasting reward, now and hereafter.

With my personal kindest regards for, and my humble blessings to **you** and **your** dear ones.

Devotedly yours in Jesus and Mary,

† Maurice Baudoux
Archbishop of Saint Boniface.



REV. CYRIL DE ROO

A Message from Our Pastor

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Spiritual good is usually not achieved miraculously nor do we expect it. That is why we are having this Canvass. We need funds and we need to organize our parish. God will bless us in the measure we earnestly endeavour to help ourselves. This is our opportunity; it is a God send. Thanks to the inspired guidance of our Archbishop we are surging ahead and the day is no longer so distant when your children will enjoy the protection and blessings of a firm, well stabilized catholic atmosphere created by the co-operation of parishioners and pastor in a common effort to implement the teachings of Our Divine Lord Jesus Christ.

We cannot have a Christ without sacrifice. Jesus Himself chose the Cross as the greatest sign of His love for us. The success of our efforts will depend on how well we imitate Our Divine Saviour, through these principles:

FAITH: In our ability to meet the challenge.

PRAYER: For our guidance and success in giving God's Share.

SACRIFICE: Of our time, talents and resources.

We place this canvass under the tender care and protection of Saint John Berchmans, our patron Saint.

Devotedly yours,

(Rev.) FATHER CYRIL DE ROO, Pastor.



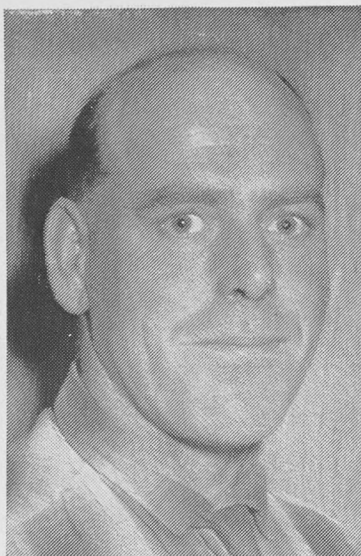
MICHAEL DE PAPE
Honorary Chairman



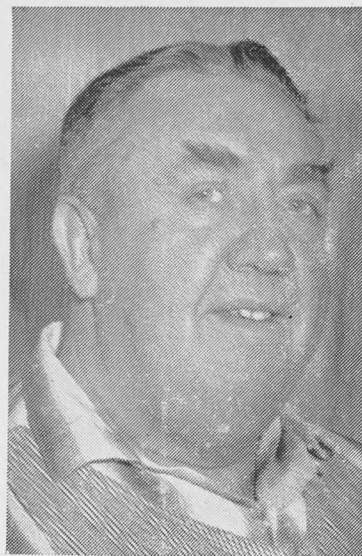
ARMAND HACAULT
General Chairman

The Objectives of the Parish over the next three-year period

- (1) To obtain combined fund pledges in excess of \$30,000 over the next three-year period.
- (2) To assert once more the position of the parish as the first parish in the diocese in the spirit of co-operation both spiritual and temporal in the plans and projects of our Bishop.
- (3) To consolidate all collections into the one Sunday offering except those prescribed by the Archbishop, hence centre our giving around the offertory of the Mass as it ought to be.
- (4) To visit every earner in our parish with the intention of encouraging all of our parishioners to support our parish better through a greater realization of the true meaning of the fifth precept of the Church.
- (5) To encourage a clearer realization that the church has a practical place in our whole life.
- (6) To promote lay leadership and lay responsibility consistent with the wish of the church in our time.
- (7) To work and give with such devotion that through our combined efforts our parish will become a more closely knit family unit.
- (8) To create a greater unity among the parishioners of St. John Berchman's Parish.



GERALD GRIFT
Special Gifts Chairman



GERARD CLAEYS
Division Leader

Our Plans to Meet Our Needs

In order to attain our goal, which is a sacrificial weekly gift for every Catholic in our parish it has been agreed that between now and December 11, 1959, we shall conduct:

AN ORGANIZED

INTENSIVE

INDIVIDUAL

FACE-TO-FACE

SOLICITATION

IN THE HOMES

FOR WEEKLY PLEDGES

OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS

BEGINNING DECEMBER 11, 1959

Solicitations will be limited to all Catholic people within the confines of our parish. The intensive aspect of this canvass means that we will concentrate our efforts on obtaining these pledges during the canvassing period.

Individual face-to-face solicitation means that there will be no group canvassing nor will any solicitation be conducted by telephone or mail. A sufficient number of our men have been enlisted, qualified and organized as canvassers to visit and solicit all people of our parish individually and privately in their homes during the canvassing period.

This will be a canvass for weekly pledges. Contributions and initial cash payments on pledges will be discouraged during the canvassing period. The use of weekly envelopes by every Catholic will produce greater spiritual and material results.

Our Responsibility

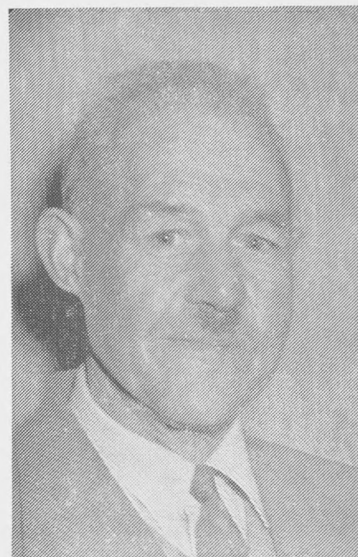
What is the true responsibility of the Catholic Layman in this modern, materialistic world in which we live? This is an important question and it must be answered correctly before the problems of our generation can be overcome. The recent Holy Fathers have laid great stress on the position of the Catholic Layman in the parish, the diocese and the Church universal.

This canvass, conducted by the laity of our parish offers every man, woman and child an opportunity to play an important role in assisting the Church. We hope and pray that from the combined efforts of this campaign the men and ladies will become more interested and active, not only during this short period, but in a manner that will continue throughout the rest of their lives. The younger boys and girls and children, too, will be asked to play some part. They will also see their mothers and fathers working with devotion for the parish and diocese. This example set for them by their parents may well have a lasting influence upon their lives.

It is not the responsibility of His Grace Archbishop Baudoux nor Rev. De Roo to support the parish. They have given their whole lives in sacrifice for the salvation of our souls. We must play our part by assuming our proper responsibility of supporting the Church in a fitting manner and encouraging others to do the same. It has been said that sacrifice is the very essence of our Faith and it is not meant and reap the benefits of the sacrifices offered by our Archbishops, our Pastors, our Priests and our Religious. We must play our part in some real tangible way and offer to God worthy offerings of time, talents and resources.



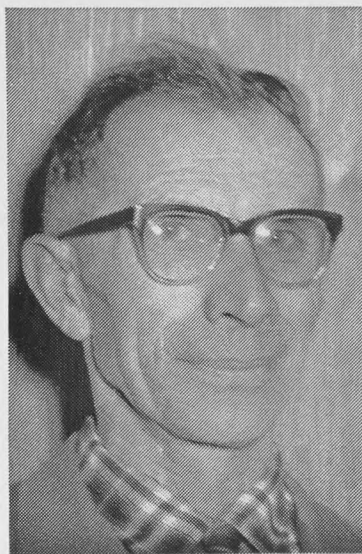
JOHN F. GRANELLI
Canvass Committee Chairman



ARTHUR HAEGEMAN
Division Leader



CAMILLE BOURDEAUD'HUI
Division Leader



THOMAS SICINSKI
Division Leader

The Fifth Precept of the Church

It appears needless to point out that one precept of the Church is no more binding than any other, yet in actual practice people do not seem to accord as much regard for the fifth precept as they do for the others. We should be horrified to meet a Catholic who ate meat on Friday or missed Mass on Sunday. Should we not be equally alarmed at the thought of Catholics giving little or no really serious consideration to the amount they give to the Church.

According to the old law the Jewish people supported their faith with 10 per cent of their income, or a tithe. Many of your non-Catholic neighbors actually pay the tithe today. Can Catholics be less generous? Christ directed His followers to give generously and according to their means, assuring them that—"With the same measure that you shall give, it shall be measured to you again." God the Giver of all things, even the very air we breathe, will not be outdone in generosity.



“MY SON, IF THOU HAVE ANYTHING,
DO GOOD TO THYSELF,
AND OFFER TO GOD WORTHY OFFERINGS”



MAURICE FIFI
Teams Chairman



ARMAND DE PAUW
Initial Gifts Chairman

The Mass and Our Sunday Offering

It is important to remember that the offering of money has become part of the Mass itself. It is not only by accident that the collection plate is passed around at the moment when the priest is offering to the Almighty Father the water and the wine and the bread that will become the Eucharist.

There was a time when at that particular moment of the Mass the people walked up to the altar and presented their gifts. They gave the wine for the offertory. Or they brought the bread that was to be consecrated for their own communion. The priest took these gifts from their hands and offered them to God in token of the fact that they, the people, wanted to have a part in the Mass and that the bread and the wine were symbolic of their own hearts and souls, which they offered gladly to the Creator.

With the growth of the Church and the consequent big increase in congregation, this method of offering gifts became impractical. And so, around the eleventh century, the offering of money was instituted as a substitute for the offering of bread and wine.

As the priest offers the bread and wine to God, the people place in the collection basket their gift of money. That money is not, clearly, a gift to the priest. Nor is it, in the strict sense, a gift to the parish. It is a gift to God Himself.



What Is a Parish Pledge?

The term "pledge" may be used in many ways. The parish pledge is simply a means of indicating how much you are going to TRY to give in support of the parish over the next three-year period and is not binding legally or morally for the amount stated. This method is used for the following reasons:

(1) **A Benefit to the Parish**

Individually we all seek financial security for the good of ourselves and our families. The parish likewise would be in a better position to regulate its activities if it, too, had an idea of its income. The pastor is seeking an indication as to how the parishioners are going to support financially the parish programme.

(2) **More Spiritual Benefit to Ourselves**

By indicating our intended givings to the church, we receive a greater spiritual benefit. Any premeditated act is either more harmful or more beneficial. Murder is more culpable than manslaughter for this reason. If our giving is determined on the spur of the moment each Sunday morning, there is very little spiritual significance to the offering. On the other hand, by planning our giving, by necessity the offering will have more effect on ourselves and our spiritual lives.

(3) **Our Faith Becomes More Practical**

By planning our giving, our lives also become more centred around the Mass and our faith becomes more practical in our lives. To meet the commitment made to the parish, most of us will be forced to insert our parish giving into our normal every-day budget and, as a consequence, we will be reminded every day, how important the Church is to us.

There is nothing abnormal about a pledge. In this modern age we pledge for nearly all the commodities of living. God himself made many pledges to man. The Church's authority is based upon the promise of our Lord to the Apostles.

No one is expected to pledge any particular amount. The amount is entirely to their own discretion. The hope of the canvass organization is that each parishioner will give this matter the serious consideration it deserves.

How much will I give?

Gifts

to

God

Gifts to God and to His Church will bring us richer dividends than we can derive from any earthly investment. God rewards donations for the extension of His Kingdom with favours and blessings, both in this world and in eternity.

Our Catholic faith is our most precious possession. By being faithful to it — going to Mass, receiving the Sacraments, and keeping God's Commandments—we save our immortal souls and gain happiness for all eternity.

Do we ever give thought to how it would be if we could not attend Mass because there was no priest to celebrate it and no Church in which to offer it? Besides being spiritual, the Church has a physical side to its nature. It needs material things to carry out its work—Churches, schools, convents, hospitals, orphanages and rectories.

Hence, our duty to contribute to the support of the Church according to our means is a dictate of human reason and of elementary common sense.

Will I give . . .

- * A token gift is an amount given by one who thinks that he is losing something by making a gift.
- * An amount given by one who does not believe in a practical way — “to give is to receive.”
- * A gift that is not a true indication of their interest in the Church.
- * A gift of the giver who does not consider Church support as important as other essentials in his budget.

A Token Gift?



A Sacrifice?

- * In other words, an amount that will require adjustment of normal living habits.
- * An amount that demands an increase of faith through the recognition that only by trust in God can it be maintained.
- * An amount made with confidence in the future.



Our Parish Canvassers

The Canvasser . . .

A Volunteer . . .

A large group of laymen of this parish have offered their time and resources freely for the sake of you and your parish. One of these men will be calling on you in the very near future and he will ask for an opportunity to explain to you exactly what the diocese and the parish have in mind during the next three year period. These men have sacrificed a lot of their time and energy in training themselves for this task and in fairness to them and the Church, we ask all of our parishioners to welcome them and allow them an opportunity of explaining our plans in detail.

It is only normal that you, our parishioners, will have many questions to ask these men, but we beg of you to allow the canvasser to first give his explanation and then, if there are any questions, he will be only too pleased to answer them.

He Will Not . . .

- (1) Under any circumstances tell or suggest to any of the parishioners what they are to give.
- (2) Use any methods to encourage parishioners to give an amount that they do not truly intend to give.
- (3) Ask you to do something that he has not already done himself.